

# WESTHAVEN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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## WCSD NEWS

## MAY 2022

**TO: Westhaven CSD Customers**

**FROM: Westhaven CSD Board of Directors:**

**Westhaven CSD Staff:**

Bill Verick - President  
 Barbara Cline Vice President  
 David Hankin Finance Officer  
 Richard Swisher Safety Officer  
 Antonio Llanos Board Member

Paul Rosenblatt General Manager / Operator T2/D2  
 Katrina Martin Operator T2  
 Roxanne Levang - Secretary / Bookkeeper  
 Madison Whitlow-Hewitt EIT Operator in training

**Dear Westhaven Neighbors and Friends,**

This newsletter accompanies our Annual Water Quality Report and provides an opportunity for us to share other information about WCSD activities over the past year. ↴

WCSD is excited to have an active web presence. Please check it out at [westhavencsd.org](http://westhavencsd.org)

As a way to enhance flexibility in payment options, we are now taking credit and debit card payments. Go to [westhavencsd.org](http://westhavencsd.org) and click on Bill Pay. Customers can also call us and leave a message and we will call back to get your card information and process your payment. There is a 3% service charge to cover the bank charges.

### **2022-2023 Operating Budget and Water Rates**

The District's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year is scheduled for public comment at the May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> Board meetings, with final approval in a *public hearing at the June 29<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting*.

At the May 4<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting the Board approved a draft budget that included an increase of \$3.84 (+6.64%) in the monthly Base Rate, an increase in the commodity rate of \$0.76 /1,000 gallons (+5.02%), resulting in an average monthly water bill increase of \$7.88 (7.9%)

*A summary of the proposed rate increase is as follows:*

EXAMPLES OF MONTHLY BILLS	CURRENT	2022-2023	INCREASE (DECREASE)
<b>BASE</b>	<b>\$57.87</b>	<b>\$61.71</b>	<b>3.84</b>
<b>NO WATER INCLUDED IN BASE CHARGE</b>	<b>TOTAL / MO</b>		
0 gallons per month	57.87	\$61.71	3.84
50 gallons per day = 1,500 gallons per month	\$80.71	\$85.70	4.99
100 gallons per day = 3,000 gallons per month	\$103.55	\$109.69	6.14
150 gallons per day = 4,500 gallons per month	\$126.39	\$133.69	7.30
200 gallons per day = 6,000 gallons per month	\$149.22	\$157.68	8.46
250 gallons per day = 7,500 gallons per month	\$172.06	\$181.67	9.61
300 gallons per day = 9,000 gallons per month	\$194.90	\$205.66	10.76
Avg. monthly bill increase for active accounts (205)			7.88

This next year's operating budget proposes a total increase in expenses of \$22,121 in an annual total budget of \$288,587. This year there is a 2.0% cost of living increase for the District's four employees (one full time, three part time). This year's annual rate increases are driven by increases in electricity costs, testing costs, insurance costs, and staff costs such as workers compensation insurance and the state minimum wage law increases. The biggest cost is compliance with the state's minimum wage regulations which requires that exempt salaried administrative employees must make twice the current state minimum wage increase which will be minimum wage of \$15/hr.x2=\$30/hr in 2023. These increases have been budgeted into the rate increase.

The proposed budget will be discussed again at the May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 WCSD Board meetings. The budget will be adopted at the June 29<sup>th</sup> special Board meeting. These Zoom meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM and will be posted in advance of meetings on the District Office and Fire Hall Bulletin boards and on the districts website at [westhavencsd.org](http://westhavencsd.org). Your questions and comments are always most welcome.

*WCSD billing regulations also include provisions for water bill adjustments following unavoidable leaks on a customer's property IF the leak is promptly repaired. The leak adjustments reduce some of the water use income that would otherwise go to the District, but this income would be an "unexpected windfall" (due to the leak) rather than typical revenue from water sales. **If you are opposed to this policy, please file a written protest with the WCSD. If you would like more information about leak adjustments call the WCSD office.***

**California State law provides water service customers the right to protest water rate increases.**

**If more than 50% of the District's water customers submit a written protest, then the increases cannot be implemented. Protests are tallied as one protest per assessor's parcel.**

Fiscal Year 2021-2022 brought many leaks which kept us busy. These leaking pipes were installed in 1968 by the Westhaven Mutual Water Company. Please note that the leaks will not affect rates. We have secured \$4,133,832 in Department of Water Resources (DWR) small community drought relief grant funding for replacement of a mile of this 1968 era water pipe that has been our worst issue and to drill the 3 wells we have been working on since 2018. This project will install new 6 inch diameter water lines and 11 new fire hydrants. We hope to be installing the new water lines in the summer and fall of 2022. The new lines will be on Haven Way, Driver Road to Westhaven Drive., Sixth Avenue from Westhaven Drive to Kahlstrom Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (including North Highland Avenue and Spring Lane.), and also the very end of Kay Avenue where it goes to Tepona Lane. This is a long-needed upgrade to our distribution system.

### **Disinfection by-Products (DBPs)- Update**

In November of 2006, following new EPA and State regulations, we began quarterly sampling for two groups of DBPs, Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAAs) at a point thought likely to represent the longest residence time in the distribution system. Since 2006 our running average (the average of the most recent four quarters' results) for TTHMs has exceeded the MCL (80 parts per billion (ppb)) about 30% of the time, and the running annual average for HAAs has exceeded the MCL (60 ppb) about 95% of the time. On December 12, 2017, WCSD was issued a Compliance Order requiring that a solution be identified by March 31, 2018, and a solution implemented by December 31, 2018. Following our requests for three separate extensions in February of 2020, we received another extension which gives us until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 to return to compliance.

### **Technical Assistance Grant**

Our source water has proven to be very difficult to treat for DBP precursors, and a simple and/or economically feasible solution eluded us for a decade. But in January of 2020, the District applied for a technical assistance grant through the State Water Resources Control Board Department of Financial Assistance for \$440,000. The purpose of this grant is to provide the District with prefunded engineering services for investigations into the following: (a) Surface water and groundwater blending for DBP reduction using the existing 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. groundwater well source (not currently used for blending) and considering additional groundwater supplies that may be available upon completion of the DWR funded groundwater well construction; and (b) Treatment and filtration enhancements for TOC/DBP precursor reduction. We partnered with Pace Engineering to work on pilot water treatment studies as



well as testing blending. We conducted dry weather tests in October of 2020 and wet weather tests in the end of January and beginning of February 2021 and both pilot tests resulted in substantial reduction in TOC/DOC and DBP's. Based on these studies, a new treatment process has been established that is effective, a new water treatment plant designed, and an application for construction funding hopefully will be made in 2022. Because the geographic area within the Westhaven CSD boundaries is considered a disadvantaged community by the state, the multi-million dollar water treatment plant project is eligible to be funded by grant funding from the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). This new water treatment plant will result in long-term improvements in treatment and the use of all existing and potential water supplies to give the community of Westhaven drinking water which reliably complies with the drinking water standards. It will also increase water storage, enhancing resiliency. It further allows us to live within the water supply provided by our Two Creek's watershed and groundwater within our own community.



**2020-21 Westhaven CSD State of California DFA Technical Assistance Grant: PACE Engineering Pilot Water Treatment Plant**

**City of Trinidad DWR Multi benefit Emergency intertie grant partnership** In the winter of 2021-22, the City of Trinidad applied for and received funding for a Department of Water Resources multi-benefit grant. A component of this grant- is an Emergency Intertie between the City of Trinidad's water system and the Westhaven Community Services District's water system. The emergency intertie will build approximately seven tenths of a mile of pipe to connect them with several fire hydrants for flushing purposes and a small pump station to convey water to the higher WCSD tanks. We hope to proceed with construction once a funding agreement has been provided by DWR with a target of completion within the next two years.

**Defensible space / fuels reduction at the Water Treatment Plant** In 2019 the District began to partner with Cal-Fire to create the required minimum 30 foot defensible space and a 100' foot reduced fuel zone around all critical facilities. Also a fuel break on the access roads at the water plant has been created as well as around the slow sand filter and ponds. We continue to partner with Cal-Fire to enhance and improve fire safety around District facilities. Although rare, there were in the 20<sup>th</sup> century at least three significant wind driven fires burning thousands of acres in the Trinidad and Westhaven area and resulting in at least two deaths. Please join us in enhancing your defensible space around your home, on your property and on access roads.



## **In Conclusion**

We are having busy times, continuing work on overdue upgrades to our distribution and treatment systems. In spite of the continuing challenges, the good news is that here in Westhaven we are fortunate to have high-quality water sources that, with the appropriate treatment, are able to provide the basis for excellent drinking water. Federal and State regulations require sampling for more than 80 contaminants generally known to be found in drinking water, with another 30 contaminants currently under review. As you can see in the water quality report, we have very few contaminants of any kind and, with the exception of DBPs, none of the contaminants are found in excess of levels currently considered to be safe. Furthermore, the past six years accomplishments have produced significant improvements in the water system. The replacement of almost a mile of the distribution system helped reduce water loss as well as maintenance and repair expenses. The 100,000 gallon storage tank installed in 2017 and repairs to the old tank have doubled our storage capacity and added many years to the life expectancy of the old tank. The additional storage capacity has allowed us to reduce the amount of turbid storm water we treat from the springs during most heavy rain events. **This has helped slightly reduce the number of quarters in which the district was in violation of the maximum contaminant levels for DBP's**

***Ongoing discussion of these issues and other operational aspects of the District will continue at the WCSD's regular monthly meetings, usually on the third Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. Currently these meetings are held via Zoom, but normally they are held at the Westhaven Fire Hall at 446 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to attend.***

**If you would like to receive, meeting agendas, newsletters, annual water quality reports and other public notifications via email or emergency notifications via text message and or email just send an email to us at [wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wcsd@suddenlinkmail.com) and provide us with a cell phone number and email address.**

**Be sure to check out our web site at [westhavencsd.org](http://westhavencsd.org) and consider trying online bill pay there too.**

**Thank you!**

## **WESTHAVEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department has immediate openings for new members. Joining the WVFD is a great way to support the community and get to know your neighbors. Training is provided!

Contact them at [WesthavenFire@gmail.com](mailto:WesthavenFire@gmail.com). Or connect on Facebook – Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department

Donations or correspondence can be sent to the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Dept. Po Box 2143, Trinidad, Ca 95570

## **Trinidad Bay Watershed Council**

Are you interested in learning more about what you can do to improve and protect our local watersheds and related resources? The mission of the Trinidad Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) is to work collaboratively to improve and maintain the watersheds, coastal waters, communities in the Trinidad and Westhaven area for the benefit of all community members. Visit them on the web at [www.trinidadwatersheds.org](http://www.trinidadwatersheds.org) or contact Becky Price- at [rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov](mailto:rpricehall@trinidad.ca.gov) to sign up for the TBWC email list.